

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/719,236

Applicant(s)

YUNN-BOR ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Sheridan L. Swope

1656

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment of November 21, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4-10.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>1103; 0304</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's preliminary amendment of November 21, 2003, wherein Applicants cancelled Claims 1-3 and 11-14, is acknowledged. Claims 4-10 are pending. Claims 4-10 encompass a single invention directed to nucleic acid molecules encoding mutated penicillin expandases. Claims 4-10 are examined on their merits.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Specification

Replace the first paragraph of the specification with:

– This application claims the benefit of priority to U.S. Application No. 10/105,319 filed March 26, 2003, which issued as US6,699,699 on March 2, 2004, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.–

On page 1, line 21, replace –deacetoxycephalosporain– with –desacetoxycephalosporin–.

Title

Replace the title with: –Nucleic acid molecules encoding mutated penicillin expandases–.

Abstract

On line one of the abstract, replace –activity on– with –activity, than the wild-type expandase, on–. On line three of the abstract, replace –(7-ADCA), which– with –(7-ADCA). The–.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-10 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

All elected Claims, 4-10, are limited to nucleic acid molecules encoding variant penicillin expandases, derived from a *Streptomyces* species wild-type expandase, wherein the variant has mutations at positions corresponding to one or more of methionine 73, glycine 79, valine 275, leucine 277, cysteine 281, and glycine 300 of the protein encoded by residues of 232-1164 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and wherein the variant has penicillin expandase activity.

It is pointed out that Claim 6 recites an isolated transformed cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of Claim 4, as set forth by the Restriction/Election Requirement mailed January 8, 2003 for parent application, US10/105,319 filed March 26, 2002, which issued as US6,699,699 on March 2, 2004.

The instant invention is free of the art.

It is noted that Lee et al, 2002 (Table 2; IDS) teach a variant penicillin expandase derived from *S. clavuligerus* penicillin expandase, wherein the variant has a Gly³⁰⁰Asn substitution. The combination of Lee et al, the citation therein of Lloyd et al, 1999 (pg 944, para 4), and Kovacevic et al, 1989 (pg 757; IDS) teach a nucleic acid molecule encoding the variant expandase of Lee et al. However, Lee et al is not prior art because it was not available to the public until March 27, 2002 (see enclosed evidence from Science Direct Database and National Library of Medicine), while the instant invention has a valid priority date of March 26, 2002.

The utility of the recited variants as having penicillin expandase activity is credible based on expression in heterologous host cells and analysis by an enzymatic assay (Tables 1 and 2). Furthermore, compared to the wild-type protein encoded by SEQ ID NO: 1, variants comprising

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M73T, S79E, V275I, L277K, C281Y, or G300V mutations have improved activity, using the substrates penicillin N and/or penicillin G (Tables 1 & 2), which is an expected result. It is known in the art that penicillin expandase converts penicillin N to deacetoxycephalosporin within the synthetic pathway for β -lactam antibiotics (Aharonovitz et al, 1992; Fig 1).

Therefore, the recited nucleic acid molecules have real-world utility in methods for producing β -lactam antibiotics, for example, in recombinant host cells.

The instant invention encompasses a genus of isolated nucleic acid molecule, derived from any wild-type penicillin expandase of any *Streptomyces* species, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes an active penicillin expandase having a substitution at one or more of the residues corresponding to M73, S79, V275, L277, C281Y, and G300 of the protein encoded by SEQ ID NO: 1. The scope of the said genus of nucleic acid molecules is enabled for the following reasons. Hsu et al, 2004 teach the alignment of penicillin expandases from three species of *Streptomyces* (Fig 3). Said alignment provides evidence that a person of ordinary skill in the art is enabled for identifying residues corresponding to M73, S79, V275, L277, C281Y, G300 of the protein encoded by SEQ ID NO: 1. The *Streptomyces clavuligerus* penicillin expandase taught by Kovacevic et al, 1989 (IDS) is identical to the protein encoded by SEQ ID NO: 1 herein. A homology search using the sequence for the expandase of Kovacevic et al provides further evidence that the instant invention is enabled. Results from a NCBI BLAST search identified 16 penicillin expandases having 100-53% identity with the expandase of Kovacevic et al (see enclosed search results). A person of ordinary skill in the art would be able to identify the residues in each homologous expandase, corresponding to M73, S79, V275, L277, C281Y, and G300 of the protein encoded by SEQ ID NO: 1 herein. Thus, the skilled artisan is enabled for making the recited genus of nucleic acid molecules and testing whether they encode

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polypeptides having penicillin expandase activity using standard methods in the art. For these reasons, the specification is enabling for the full scope of the recited nucleic acid molecules as well as the vectors, host cells, and methods of making the encoded protein, as recited in Claims 4-10.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Sheridan L. Swope whose telephone number is 571-272-0943. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F; 9:30-7 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathleen Kerr can be reached on 571-272-0931. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on the access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sheridan Lee Swope, Ph.D.
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SHERIDAN SWOPE, Ph.D.
PATENT EXAMINER